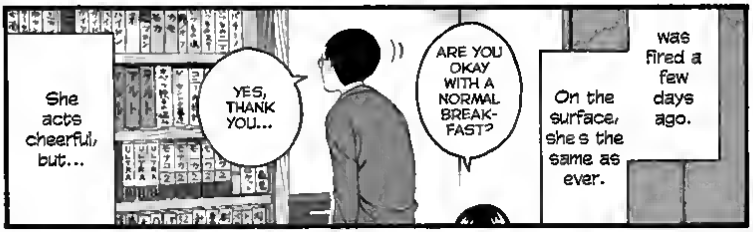
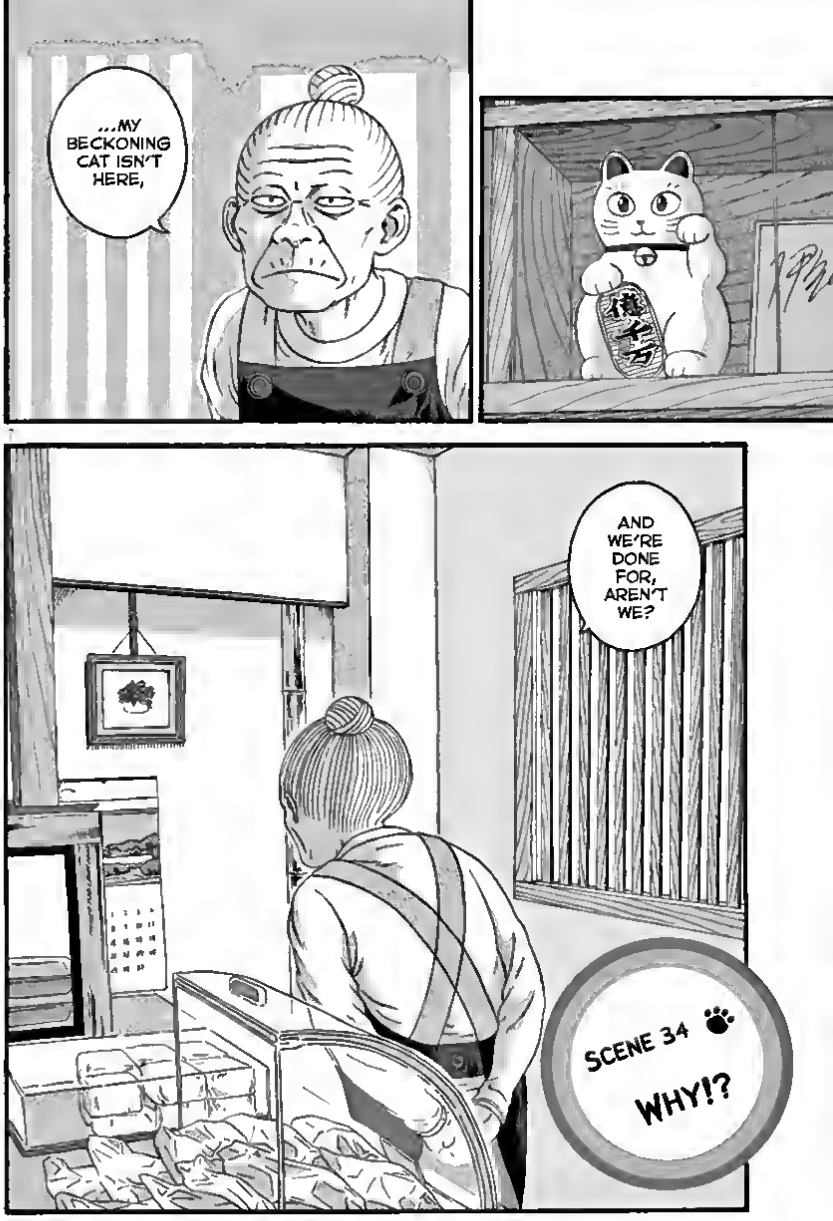
splash...
AKI-CHAN, BREAK-FAST IS READY.
OK!!
Mii...
SCENE 34
WHY!?
I'M TIRED.
IT'S ALREADY EARLY SUMMER BUT...


She acts cheerful, but...
YES, THANK YOU...
ARE YOU OKAY WITH A NORMAL BREAK-FAST?
On the surface, she's the same as ever.
was fired a few days ago.

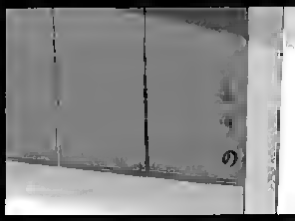
In a daze...
WHAT THE!?
Her hair's backwards?
She was unable to hide her shock.
OH? THE BOOKS ARE BACK-WARDS
THE MISO SOUP AND RICE ARE BACK-WARDS



SCANLATION BY RPAPO

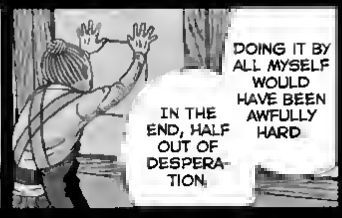
That day...
I'M... FIRED!?
YES, I NO LONGER HAVE ENOUGH TO PAY YOU.
YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE ENOUGH!! NOT UNTIL THE SHOP IS BACK ON ITS FEET...!!
DON'T TALK LIKE A FOOL!!
GO TO WORK IN THAT SUPER-MARKET.
!!
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A DRAIN ON YOUR BROTHER'S RESOURCES, DO YOU?
IN THAT CASE, DO ME A FAVOR AND GO MAKE YOUR-SELF GOOD MONEY.
LIKE THAT ...!!
WASN'T IT GOING TO BE FOUR TIMES THE PAY FOR YOU?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE HAPPY HE VALUES YOU THAT MUCH?
WELL, I APPRECI-ATE HOW HARD YOU'VE WORKED UP TO NOW.
MA, MADAM ...!!
DO YOU THINK THAT PER-HAPS,
THIS SHOP MAY HAVE TO CLOSE...?

THEY'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THAT SUPER-MARKET SINCE BEFORE YOU CAME TO WORK HERE...
I WONDERED WHEN I WOULD HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN.



...ACTU-ALLY, YOU KNOW,

I DIDN'T THINK ANYBODY WOULD COME, BUT,
PART TIMER WANTED!!
NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!! BUT IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU KNOW A LITTLE LOOKING!!
CALL THIS PHONE NUMBER
I TRIED TO RECRUIT SOME-BODY AT LOW PAY.


IN THE END, HALF OUT OF DESPERA-TION,
DOING IT BY ALL MYSELF WOULD HAVE BEEN AWFULLY HARD.

YOU CAME TO ME.

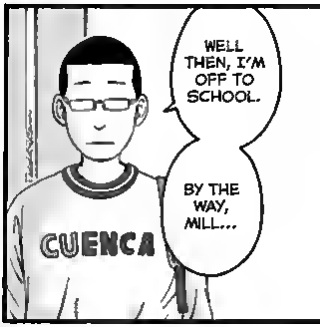
Eek
There's a little extra inside.
YOU WORKED WELL FOR ME AT LOW PAY,
YOU EVEN PULLED CUSTOMERS IN FOR ME.
THOUGH YOU WERE STRANGELY OLD FASHIONED,
AND DRIPPING WITH MYSTERY.
BESIDES, SOMEHOW,
IT WAS FUN...
I THINK I GOT CARELESS THIS TIME.
IT COULD BE THAT YOU SPOILED ME.
THANKS FOR UP TO NOW.
...SO, WELL, THIS IS IT.

SO... SHE THINKS SHE MAY CLOSE THE SHOP...
YES...
THAT'S NOT SO...
I'M SORRY FOR THAT.
MY JOB WENT ENTIRELY TO WASTE.
I CAN'T JUST GO TO THE SUPER-MARKET, SO I WILL JUST HAVE TO LOOK ELSE WHERE.
.....
IT'S MY FAULT.
FROM MY OWN LACK OF ABILITY, THE SHOP...

.....SO IT SEEMS...
...BUT, YOU KNOW,
DON'T LOOK FOR A NEW JOB...
UNTIL YOU CALM DOWN A BIT...
...YES,
THERE'S THAT...

SPEAKING OF GOING WELL, YOU GO WELL...
HUH? HAS SOMETHING CHANGED?
NO... NOT REALLY...

WHY IS IT? EVERY MORN-ING,
I'M TIRED.


WELL THEN, I'M OFF TO SCHOOL.
BY THE WAY, MILL...
CUENCA

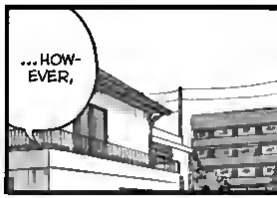
COME BACK SAFE.
I'LL BE BACK.
OH, HERE'S YOUR LUNCH.
CUENCA

...ERR, NEVER MIND...

HM?
..... UMM...

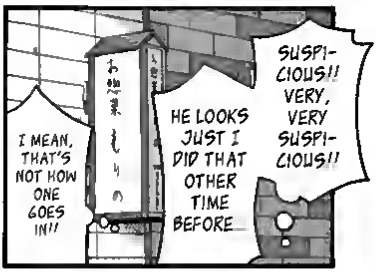
BECAUSE I'M GOING TO DO A LITTLE CHECKING ON "MORI'S."
OH, I'LL BE A LITTLE LATE TODAY.
EH?
WELL THEN.

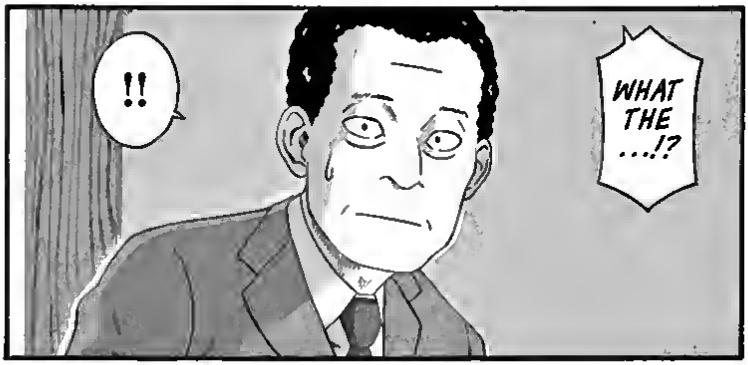
WHAT THE, A CUSTOMER BEFORE ME...!?
VERY QUIETLY...

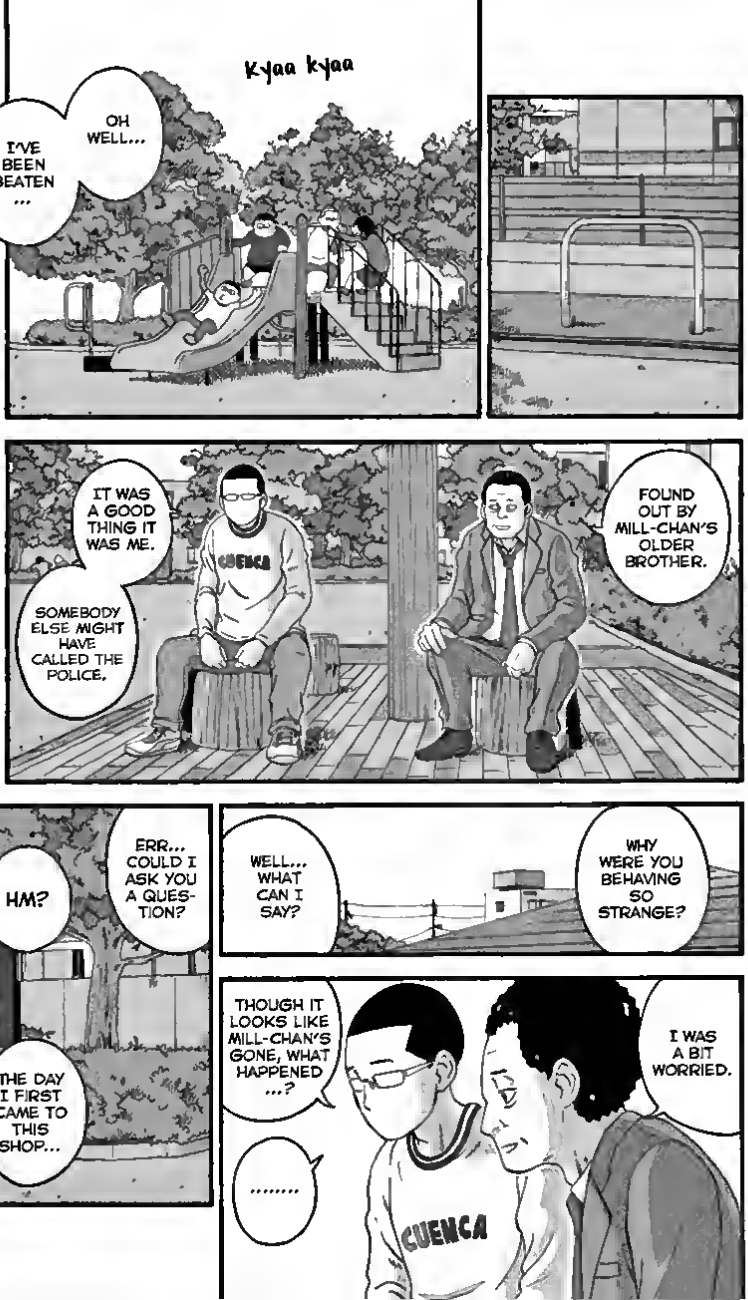

...HOWEVER,

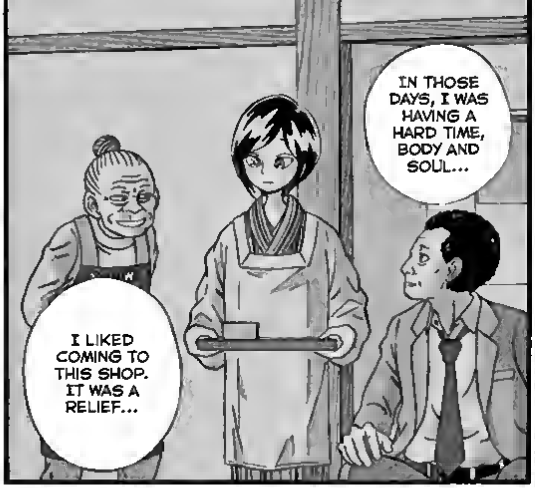
IT IS AWKWARD, MEETING WITH THE SHOPKEEPER...
HUH?

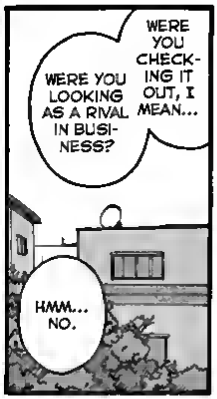
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HE, HEY...

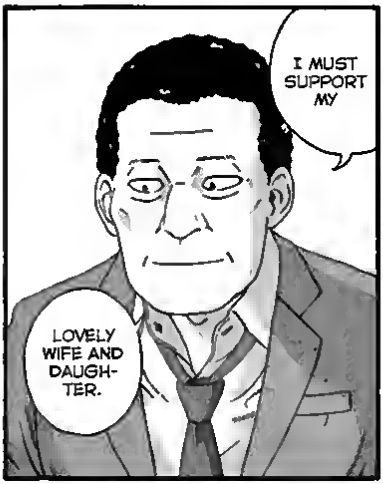

I MEAN, THAT'S NOT HOW ONE GOES IN!!
HE LOOKS JUST I DID THAT OTHER TIME BEFORE
SUSPICIOUS!! VERY, VERY SUSPICIOUS!!

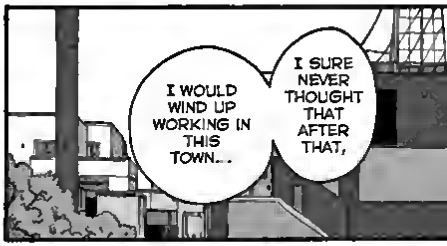

!!
WHAT THE ...!?


Kyaa kyaa
I'VE BEEN BEATEN ...
OH WELL...
IT WAS A GOOD THING IT WAS ME.
SOMEBODY ELSE MIGHT HAVE CALLED THE POLICE.
FOUND OUT BY MILL-CHAN'S OLDER BROTHER.
HM?
ERR... COULD I ASK YOU A QUES-TION?
THE DAY I FIRST CAME TO THIS SHOP...
WELL... WHAT CAN I SAY?
WHY WERE YOU BEHAVING SO STRANGE?
THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE MILL-CHAN'S GONE, WHAT HAPPENED ...?
.....
I WAS A BIT WORRIED.
CUENCA


IN THOSE DAYS, I WAS HAVING A HARD TIME, BODY AND SOUL...
I LIKED COMING TO THIS SHOP. IT WAS A RELIEF...

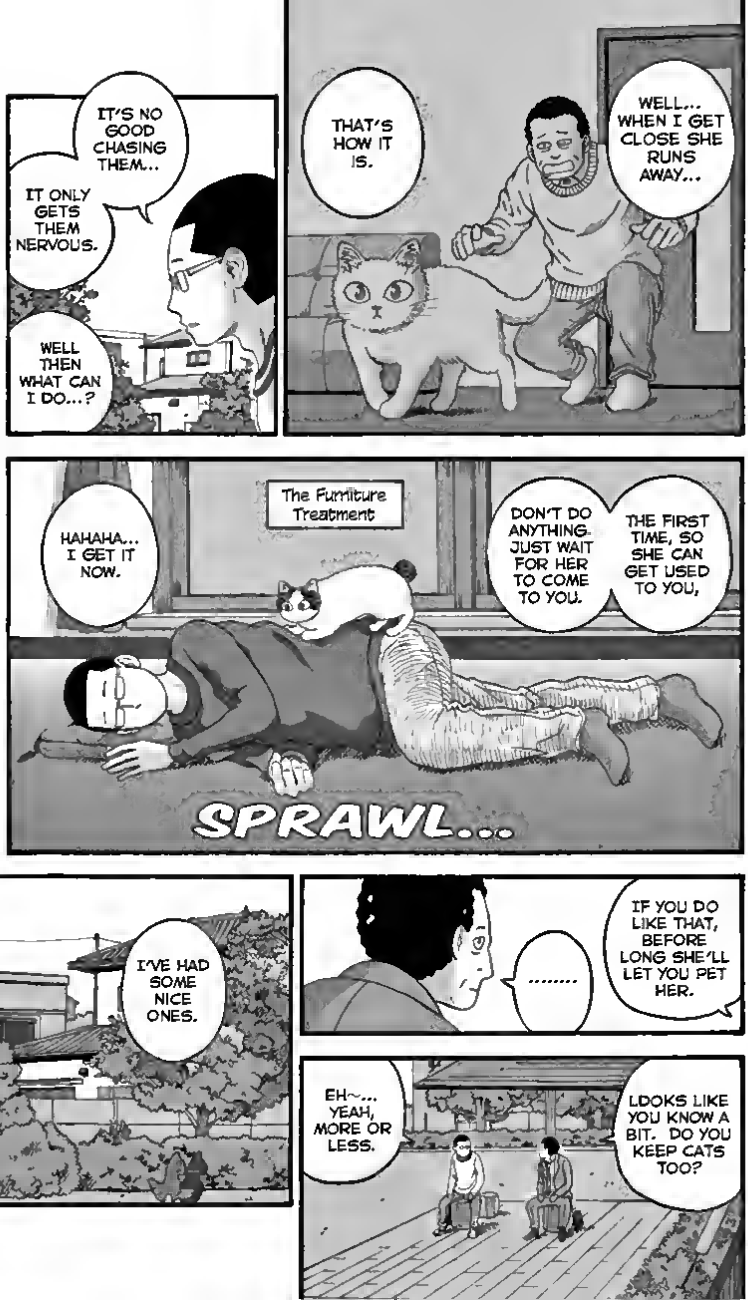

WERE YOU CHECK-ING IT OUT, I MEAN...
WERE YOU LOOKING AS A RIVAL IN BUSI-NESS?
HMM... NO.


I MUST SUPPORT MY
LOVELY WIFE AND DAUGH-TER.


I SURE NEVER THOUGHT THAT AFTER THAT,
I WOULD WIND UP WORKING IN THIS TOWN...

BUT YOU SEE,
I DIDN'T LIKE TO, OF COURSE.
.....

.....
DID IT DISLIKE YOU?
OH, AND MY CHARMING CAT TOO.

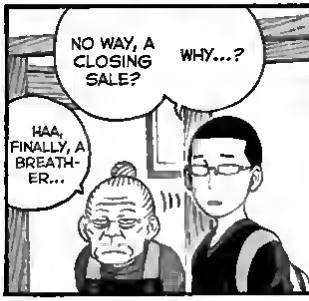

IT'S NO GOOD CHASING THEM...
IT ONLY GETS THEM NERVOUS.
WELL THEN WHAT CAN I DO...?
THAT'S HOW IT IS.
WELL... WHEN I GET CLOSE SHE RUNS AWAY...
The Furniture Treatment
HAHAHA... I GET IT NOW.
DON'T DO ANYTHING. JUST WAIT FOR HER TO COME TO YOU.
THE FIRST TIME, SO SHE CAN GET USED TO YOU,
SPRAWL...
I'VE HAD SOME NICE ONES.
.....
IF YOU DO LIKE THAT, BEFORE LONG SHE'LL LET YOU PET HER.
EH~... YEAH, MORE OR LESS.
LOOKS LIKE YOU KNOW A BIT. DO YOU KEEP CATS TOO?

もりの
WHAT'S THIS? IT'S CROWDED ...!?

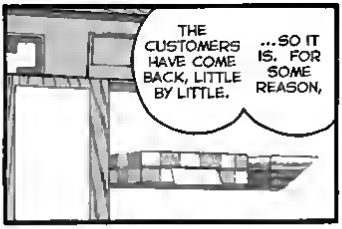
A week after that
MIII,

started looking for a new job.
HUH?

AH.


NO WAY, A CLOSING SALE?
WHY...?
HAA, FINALLY, A BREATH-ER...

I WASN'T HAVING A SALE, YOU KNOW
EH?
NO, NOT AT ALL.
IT'S NICE THEY'VE CONTIN-UED ..
BUT WHY HAVE THEY?


THE CUSTOMERS HAVE COME BACK, LITTLE BY LITTLE.
...SO IT IS. FOR SOME REASON,

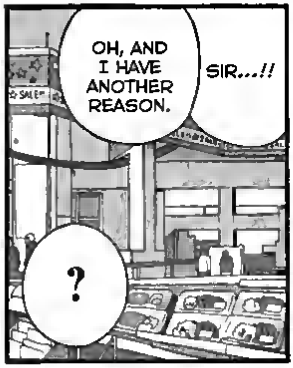
EX, EXCUSE ME. WELL THEN!
WHAT DID YOU COME HERE TO DO...?
EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING SPECIAL...
WHY THE CUSTOMERS RETURNED...
.....?
!!
AH, HOLD ON.
IS SHE DOING WELL?
THAT GIRL...

BUT NOTHING'S CHANGED...
I THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE FEWER CUSTOMERS HERE...
SHRIMP WITH MAYO...
SHRIMP FRIES...
ザ・ミット
HEY!
WOW!
.....
WHAT'S THIS?
CATESSEN
WHY!?
WHAA, OF COURSE! THERE'S NONE!!
NO WAY...!!
There's sure a lot here.
Mama
WHAT THE?
TURKEY RICE
JEEZ!! WHAT'S GOING ON!?

I LOOKED OVER EVERY-THING
?? NOTHING'S CHANGED ...
TO THE SUPER-MARKET.
I came running!
CALLING ME ALL OF A SUDDEN ...
Fried Carpaccio Meuniere
All You Might Hope
WELL NOW, HOLD ON.
...WHAT'S THIS?
BURGER
JAPANESE STYLE FOOD...?
THERE'S NO
OH?
BUT WHY...?
There's nothing but Western foods
IS THAT SO?
THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE. THAT'S GOT TO BE WHY THE CUSTOMERS HAVE COME BACK!!

HOLD ON THERE, BOSS!!
EEEP!?
WHAT IS IT, GOOD SIR...!?
WHY'D YOU STOP CARRYING JAPANESE FOODS!?
WELL... WE'RE SETTING IT ASIDE.
SETTING IT ASIDE?

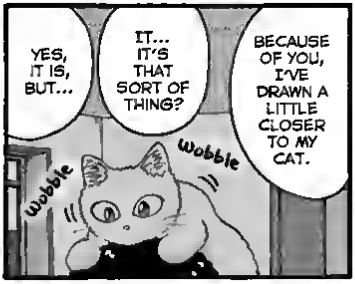
YES. EVEN THOUGH WE TRIED HARD WITH JAPANESE FOODS...
WE SIMPLY COULDN'T BEAT THE FLAVOR OF "MORI'S"
BUT, WASN'T IT SELLING...?

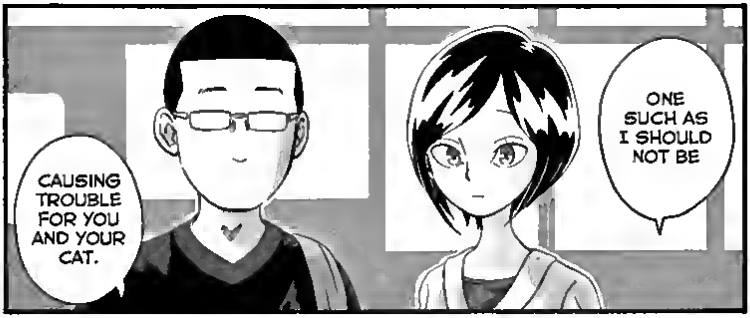

SIR...!!
OH, AND I HAVE ANOTHER REASON.
?

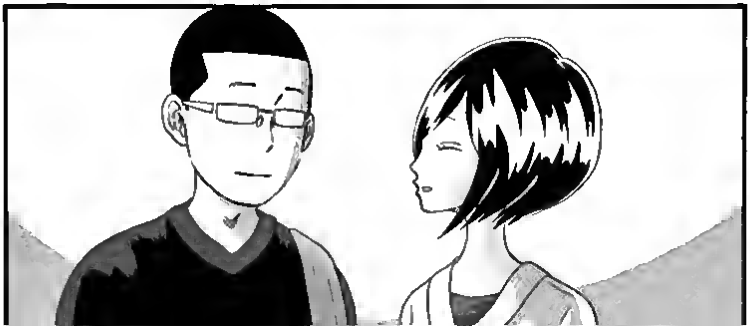
BESIDES, AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE,
IT'S BECAUSE I AM MYSELF A FAN OF "MORI'S."

AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU.
SO DID THE TIME I SPENT WITH MY FAMILY.
WHEN THE TIME I SPENT WITH MY CAT INCREASED A BIT,
Dad, you're weird!
What are you doing, dear?

MILL-CHAN, I AM GRATEFUL TO YOUR BROTHER.
EH?
FRIED MACKEREL


YES, IT IS, BUT...
IT... IT'S THAT SORT OF THING?
BECAUSE OF YOU, I'VE DRAWN A LITTLE CLOSER TO MY CAT.
Wobble
Wobble


CAUSING TROUBLE FOR YOU AND YOUR CAT.
ONE SUCH AS I SHOULD NOT BE

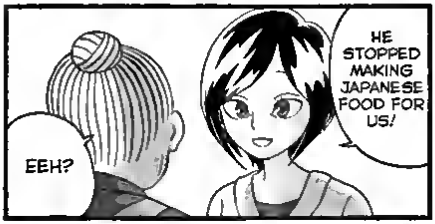


COME TO "MORI'S" AGAIN.
HUH?
THANK YOU. ...BUT...

SIR, PLEASE...
LET'S DO WHEAT
MARKET!!

Yer too close.
I HAD A HUNCH WHEN YOU DASHED OFF...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
MADAM!!

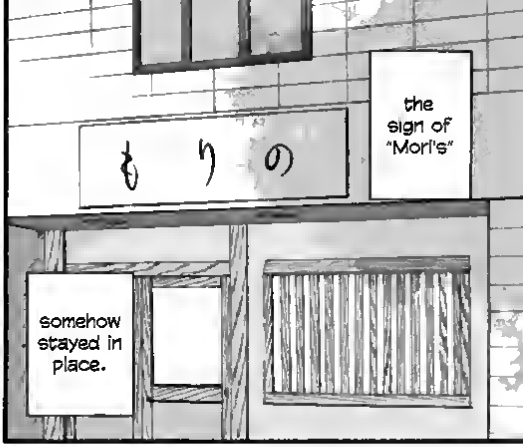
WHAT'S THIS? THE SHOP-KEEP-ER!?
...WHERE HAVE I SEEN THIS BEFORE?
IS IT ABOUT ME?
JAM
BUTTER
CHEESE

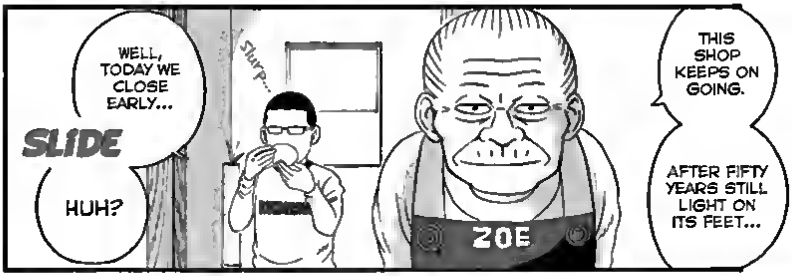

HE STOPPED MAKING JAPANESE FOOD FOR US!
EEH?

LOOKS LIKE IT' OBVIOUSLY, WE'VE COME TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT!!
EEEE-HHHH ~?
GRINNING, TO SAY "COME BACK TO MY SHOP!"
IN OTHER WORDS, MADAM SHOPKEEPER HAS COME HERE,

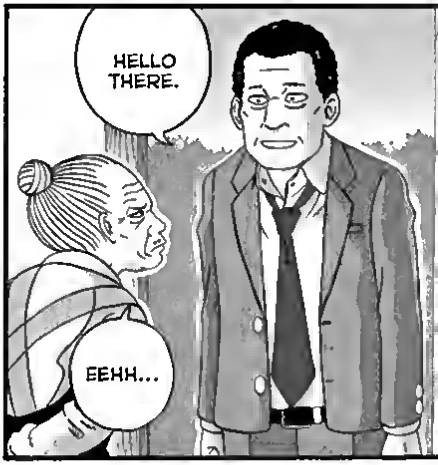
THAT'S IT, MADAM!
DO IT, MADAM!!
WHAT'S WRONG, MADAM!?
UU~ ...
SHUT YER TRAP!!
EVEN IF THIS STORE STOPS MAKING JAPANESE FOOD, IT'S PROBABLY NOT GOING TO VANISH!!
EVEN IF YOU SAY THE CUSTOMERS ARE COMING BACK, FEWER COME IN THAN BEFORE!!
TH, THAT MAY BE TRUE...
HMPH... WELL, EVEN IF YOU COME TO SPY ON US,
YOU CAN COME. I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.
EH?
BECAUSE I WILL MAKE SOMETHING TO FIGHT BACK,
SOME-THING THIS STORE CANNOT BEAT.
...THAT SO...?
IN THAT CASE, I AM FREE TO...
HEY, HERE WE GO AGAIN.
...And so doing,

It looks like sales rose, little by little.
LITTLE BY LITTLE? YOU MEAN BARELY.
ZOE


the sign of "Mori's"
somehow stayed in place.


WELL, TODAY WE CLOSE EARLY...
SLIDE
HUH?
SLURP...
THIS SHOP KEEPS ON GOING.
AFTER FIFTY YEARS STILL LIGHT ON ITS FEET...
ZOE

EH...
WELL WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE MAN WITH LOUSY TIMING...


HELLO THERE.
EEHH...

AH, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.
AH, WELCOME, WELCOME!

HAHHAA
LATELY SHE'S BEEN CLINGING TO MY ARM!!
I'M HAPPY!! THOUGH MY ARM'S ALL SCRATCHED UP!!
...ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT...?
HOW ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR CAT?
OH, YOU'RE ASKING ME?
AH, EVEN THIS SHOP HAS A BECKONING CAT, EH?
I'M GOOD WITH MY CAT.
IS THAT SO...?
IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY!!
IT'S CONTACT, CONTACT!!
OH, THAT REMINDS ME,
HOW'S MILL-CHAN...?
...WELL, SO IT SEEMS. ONE THAT EXISTS,
AND ONE THAT LIVES...
EH?

AH, WELCOME!!
TO A GOOD PLACE!!
AREN'T WE LIVELY NOW?
WHO HAS COME TO SEE US?
PLEASE HAVE A TASTE OF OUR NEW MENU!!
IT'S BEEF MUD-SKIPPER-NOFF THOUGH...
WHY ...!?
THAT'S RIGHT!! IT'S A MYS-TERY!!

Hello
Oh, where's the shop-keeper?
She's out on delivery
She's still doing that?
Yeah, but she has to stop doing it
?

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: THIS CHAPTER PLAYS WITH SOME AMBIGUOUS MEANINGS. THE TITLE OF THE CHAPTER IS **どうして!?**, WHICH MEANS "WHY!?" OR "HOW!?" THE WORD IS USED IN SEVERAL PLACES THROUGHOUT THE CHAPTER, THE MEANING VARYING SLIGHTLY WITH THE CONTEXT. BUT ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE CHAPTER, ANOTHER WORD OR EXPRESSION, **なぜか**, IS USED WITH THE MEANING OF "WHY?" AND IS IMMEDIATELY TURNED ON ITS HEAD WITH THE ASSERTION **なぜだ!**, WHICH MEANS "IT IS A MYSTERY!"

But you know, they say it's because that guys like that
I didn't once say he was a "pretty boy"!!
As usual, she still hasn't come back
DOSUKOI